Ham-Digital Digest   Thu, 16 Sep 93   Volume 93 : Issue   41

Today's Topics:
                        Can you build a TNC?
                       Used Micors & Exec IIs

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Wed, 15 Sep 1993 15:05:42 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!caen!uwm.edu!spool.mu.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!
willis1.cis.uab.edu!right.dom.uab.edu!user@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Can you build a TNC?
To: ham-digital@ucsd.edu

In article <275ubbINNp05@uwm.edu>, pachner@csd4.csd.uwm.edu (Thomas Jay
Pachner) wrote:
>
> I am new to Amateur Radio and was curious to who a TNC works? Is it possible
> to modify an external modem to become a TNC?
>
> What is an inexpensive TNC that would be good for someone to begin on?
>
About the only dissappointment I have had in amateur radio is that the
kits or commercial gear is so cheap that building your own makes almost
no sense. That said, I had considered building my own TNC, or at least
a modem that I could then drove with my computer. The reason I did not
was that I would have to write the software and it would tie up my
computer. The software would not be that simple, since TNC's should
be polite to other users and digipeating is expected. When I found out

a TNC could be had for $120 that supported it's own mailbox of 8k at that
price, and when I heard all that I would be missing by taking the months
it would take to put my own machine together I put down the money and
bought one.

Now, if you do want to make your own TNC, consider using one of the
MOtorola modem chips. You can buy a v.23 modem which will make the
right signals for packet, and motorola also has a chip that runs
asynchronous to synchronous and vice versa. Those two chips would
make a nice start on a TNC. You will have to pay attention to the
modulation scheme, which is NRZI, but that is available in the ARRL
handbook, and is documented in the AX.25 standard.

Best of luck!
Steve Holland KD4TTC (Another recent licensee)

Date: Wed, 15 Sep 1993 15:18:25 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!spool.mu.edu!uwm.edu!
ginews!don@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Used Micors & Exec IIs
To: ham-digital@ucsd.edu

>A few questions about these radios, if I may. What's the approximate
>power output?

They come with various power outputs. 45, 60, and 90/110 watts are
typical for the VHF units (the only ones I am familiar with).

>How many frequencies/crystals can be installed at one
>time?

The VHF units come with either 4 channel or 8 channel capability.
There are separate crystals required for receive and transmit.

>Are there desireable options/variations to look for, less
>desireable models, etc?

Some of them (most of them?) come with PL capability. Some have
complex options like Digital PL and DVP that require lots of work to
remove. Others are quite simple to modify and use.

>Is there a business that sells/resells these,
>perhaps with a warranty?

Don't know of any.

>Is there any readily available info about
>using these units for amateur use, what to expect/watch for, etc.?

There are some mods lists on various packet BBS systems that deal
with some of the mods. A manual is a must. You cannot do much with
these without a manual. The manual will tell you what mods, if any,
are required to change the frequency range to the amateur
frequencies (they come in several frequency ranges in the VHF
range).

Hope this helps a little. I am working on modifying two of these
right now (never done it before). They are somewhat complicated
by the fact that they have the DVP units on them, but the trouble
will be worth it. They are 110 watt units with good ears.

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